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Security Information

June 28, 1948.

In a series of informal conversations with the Ministers of Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, and the former Minister of Hungary, Mr. Aladar Szegedy-Maszak, Source endeavored to sound if and to what extent these diplomats would be in a position and willing to cooperate with the appropriate American official agencies in making use of the Resistance organizations in U.S. and in Europe, and the underground forces in their respective countries.

It goes without saying that this enquiry was made in a discreet and indirect manner, without in any way disclosing the real object of the conversation.

From these discussions Source has drawn the following conclusions:-

(1) Any definite approach in the above direction should be initiated at a high level, stressing the political advantage resulting from such cooperation. All these diplomats are residing in this country under the status of accredited representatives of their respective countries to the American government. The position of Mr. Szegedy-Maszak is somewhat different, as he no longer is active Minister of Hungary. Nevertheless, he still maintains his contacts with the State Department and feels bound by the same rules of procedure applicable to active resident diplomats. In any relations with the American authorities and official Agencies, they never lose sight of their status and, therefore, are reluctant to commit themselves to any definite statement or line of action without the knowledge and assent of the State Department.

(2) There can be no doubt that their cooperation is essential, at least in the initial stage. They are in close touch with the political expatriates and the organizations in this country and elsewhere having as an object propaganda, and occasionally underground activities for the liberation of their countries from the domination of Soviet Russia. Such contacts are a closely-guarded secret and, obviously, they could not be discussed freely, especially with outsiders, unless the diplomats feel quite certain that they are talking to properly accredited persons, in a position to help their cause.

(3) A clear-cut distinction should be made between the political and operational aspect of the collaboration aimed at. The heads of diplomatic missions might eventually facilitate the contact between their co-nationals in this country and the American special Agencies, but they would be averse to carrying their collaboration beyond that stage. Once contacts with Resistance leaders have been established, operational details will have to be worked out at a different level.

**SECRET**  
Security Information

(2)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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L A T V I A. Dr. Alfred Bilmanis, Latvian Minister since 1935, is a prolific writer, and has published a considerable amount of literature about his country and the other Baltic states. He is kept informed regularly about conditions by contacts in this country, who are in constant communication with trusted elements in that region. One such communication, describing the general situation in Latvia, was published in American World Intelligence of May 29, 1948, a copy of which is attached.

Dr. Bilmanis told Source that in spite of successive waves of arrests, deportations and liquidations over a period of years, Latvian underground is still functioning. People have not lost faith in the ultimate delivery from their oppressors. He added, however, that their faith must be kept alive by encouraging messages from abroad, which can still be conveyed by means of radio broadcasts. In this connection he mentioned that a deputation of Baltic people called upon the Management of the "Voice of America" to ask for broadcasts in the respective languages of those small nations. At present broadcasts directed to the Baltic states are only in German and Russian. The delegates went away disappointed on being informed that facilities are lacking at present for broadcasts such as requested.

It is important to know that there are still short wave sets available and that people are listening regularly to American broadcasts.

E S T O N I A has no diplomatic representative in Washington. The interests of this country are taken care of by the acting Consul General Johannes Kaiv, in New York, who is also in charge of the Legation. According to Dr. Bilmanis conditions in Estonia are similar to those obtaining in Latvia. The process of sovietisation and the reaction of the population to the Soviet domination is identical in all three Baltic states.

Mr. Kaarel R. Pusta, Sr., former Foreign Minister of Estonia, at present in this country, takes a keen interest in the Resistance movement of his country. He published an article calling attention to conditions in DP camps in the New Leader of June 26, 1948, copy of which is annexed hereto.

L I T H U A N I A is represented in Washington by Mr. Povilas Zadeikis, who was accredited as Minister in 1935.

The Lithuanians have many fraternal and cultural organizations in U.S. and are conducting an extensive propaganda through various publications. The Lithuanian Bulletin, published in New York, and the Current News on the Lithuanian Situation, compiled by the Lithuanian Legation in Washington, disseminate regularly items of news received through confidential channels.

Mr. Zadeikis stated that the Lithuanian underground continues to be very strong, and communications with the out-

(3)

SECRET

Security Information

side world are still open, in spite of the increasing vigilance of the Soviet authorities. The population is kept informed by short wave radios and occasional written communications smuggled in by messengers, and even dropped from airplanes together with pieces of equipment on rare occasions.

Some interesting facts relating to present conditions and underground activity in Lithuania are mentioned in the February 16, 1948, issue, herewith attached.

The proximity of friendly Sweden, where a large number of Lithuanians, as well as other Baltic people, have found a place of refuge would explain the relative facility of communicating with the underground forces in those countries, and getting news from them. Thus, for instance, the Lithuanian Bulletin, of March-April, 1948, gives, on page 6, particulars about the Russian war measures in Lithuania. (Copy attached).

HUNGARY. Mr. Aladar Szegedy-Maszák has represented his country in Washington from January, 1946, until the advent of the present Communist-dominated régime. Owing to the fact that former Premier Nagy lives on his farm in Virginia and does not speak any language but Hungarian, Mr. Szegedy-Maszák is considered to be the real exponent of the Hungarian people's interests in this country. He is a highly-educated man, with a thorough knowledge of conditions in Central and South Eastern Europe, and Source believes he would be very helpful if the procedure outlined above is followed.

He emphasized the idea under (1) and pointed out the absolute necessity of bolstering up the public opinion in the countries behind the Iron Curtain in order to create a favorable atmosphere in preparation for any appeal to the underground forces. He pointed out that the hopes of those nations in effective help from the West have lately begun to weaken, seeing that the various strong notes and representations made by the Western Allies to the Communist-dominated governments have remained without effect. The confidence in the efficacy of Western assistance must be restored, and the public opinion be kept constantly informed as to developments abroad by convincing broadcasts. This is essential in order to prevent a feeling of despondency and helplessness getting hold of those elements who are still keeping alive the spirit of resistance.

In Hungary, like in the other satellite countries, the government is trying to prevent people from listening in to foreign broadcasts, except those coming from Russia and other satellite countries. Cheap, standard sets are being manufactured able to receive broadcasts only from countries under Soviet control. These are gradually to replace the short wave sets. But in spite of this, there will always remain enough hidden sets to receive American broadcasts. The underground would see to it that news thus received is disseminated.

(4)

He also stressed the plight of the Hungarian refugees, who are escaping at the rate of 25 - 30 each week. Some of these are valuable elements who could be used if they were given facilities to reach the U.S. He warned, however, against the infiltration of agents-provocateurs and extreme elements - of the Right or of the Left - among the bona fide democratic elements fleeing the country. He cited cases in which former Nazis had ingratiated themselves with the military authorities of occupation in Austria and Germany to the extent of being used in various capacities, including that of guardians of DP camps, in which former co-nationals of theirs whom they had persecuted during the Nazi régime, are now being kept.

In his opinion there could be no question of organizing an underground resistance within his country until there is definite assurance of help from outside. Any act of sabotage is an act of war, and the persons undertaking such work would not consent to act unless they are confident that they will have cooperation and protection on the part of friendly forces outside.

FINLAND. Mr. K.T. Jutla, has been Minister of Finland in Washington since 1945.

He appears to be satisfied with present conditions in his country, and optimistic as to her future relations with Soviet Russia. The two countries, said Mr. Jutla, have had many disagreements in the past, but there also have been long periods of peace in between, and they have come to understand their respective points of view. The Russians have always had high regard for Finland's superior standard of living, national probity and industry. Even now, after two disastrous wars, the Finns have recuperated quicker than other countries involved in the war, in spite of heavy reparations they have been paying to Soviet Russia.

The reduction by 50% of the remaining reparations represents an important step toward economic rehabilitation, and - the Minister hopes - will also mark the beginning of a long era of peace and orderly trade relations. The Russians are in great need of Finland's industrial products, as well as of her markets, and it is not likely that they would kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. Then again, they have their hands full in Central and South-Eastern Europe, not to do something that may antagonize a neighbor who would not become aggressive unless under provocation.

In the political field Mr. Jutla thinks the Finns have succeeded in containing the Communists at home. The three Communist members of the Cabinet approximately represent the real proportion of the Communist votes. When the Communist Minister of Interior wanted to impose his will upon the rest of the Cabinet, they simply replaced the Minister of Interior, and Moscow did not make much of a show to back him up. The

(5)

The Communists tried to get credit for the reduction of reparations, claiming it as a Communist victory. But it was unmistakeably proved to them that that measure was the result of negotiations carried on in Moscow by the Finnish Prime Minister and his fellow delegates.

The Finnish people are quite willing to collaborate honestly and sincerely with their Communists and the Moscow government, but they would not accept a position of inferiority in their dealings with the Soviet government and its Communist friends in Finland.

Under these circumstances, concluded the Minister, there is no necessity for an underground movement in Finland. It would be unwise to stir up unnecessary trouble so long as relations between the two countries remain normal and friendly. Should the present satisfactory situation change, and Russia become inimical, well, then, the Finns would again take to the forest as they did in the past. Until then, they would stay quietly at home and mind their own business.

In conclusion, Source thinks that effective cooperation with the official envoys of Baltic states and unofficial ~~representatives~~ representatives of satellite nations, who had at one time been accredited to the American government, is possible and essential for the coordination of resistance and underground activities. The first step, however, must be taken in conjunction with the State Department.

When contacts have been established, the details should be worked out by the proper Agencies with the available elements of the resistance organization of each country, here, and eventually abroad.

Refugees should be carefully screened and those found trustworthy to be given facilities to cooperate in the resistance movement.